

# **Alaska Forest Highway Enhancement and Recreational Access Program**

Note: Nominations must have a relationship to surface transportation. Requests that are purely recreational in nature are not eligible for Forest Highway funds.

The Tri-agency composed of representatives from the U. S. Forest Service, Federal Highway Administration and the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities decided to reserve 10% of the Alaska Forest Highway Program to fund enhancement projects. The Enhancements Projects are those projects that provide an enhanced use or experience for forest highway users beyond travel on an improved highway. These projects include but are not limited to interpretative signs, highway turnouts, viewpoints, historical and interpretative signing, information signing, roadside parking areas, and improved access to recreational sites.

All the enhancements are expected to meet screening criteria. The screening criteria are that projects be related to:

- a) surface transportation,
- b) a route on the Alaska Forest Highway System, and
- c) a route that would be eligible for addition to the Forest Highway System, such as a road through, adjacent or that accesses the National Forest.

Examples of enhancements that could be considered for ranking in a Forest Highway Program call for projects follow:

- Trailheads
- Visitor/traveler facilities (including connecting roadways)
- Interpretative signing, kiosks, etc.
- Restrooms or toilets
- Turnouts or parking areas
- Boat launch ramps
- Connecting paths to recreation sites and other points of interest
- Wildlife viewing (Observable Wildlife, etc)
- Interpretative signing, kiosks, etc.
- Facilities that parallel a forest highway
- Accessibility (ADA/ABA retrofitting)
- Landscaping and site beautification
- Historic preservation of transportation facilities (National Register)
- Environmental mitigation
- Archaeological planning and research